

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nowak, et al.

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TITLE: A BALL VALVE

USPTO CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: 175.7903USU

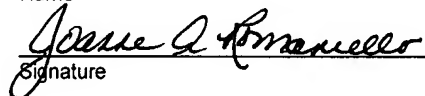
Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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August 20, 2003 (Date of Deposit).

Joanne A. Romaniello

Name


Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows: